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Message Text

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43
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01

PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-02 ACDA-05 OMB-01

SAM-01 /056 W
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R 271540Z DEC 74
FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5081
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
USMISSION NATO
COMICEDEFOR
CINCLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 1697

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR MARR IC NATO
SUBJECT: IDF RETENTION IMPLEMENTATION: REPORT OF FIRST TWO MEETINGS

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARA F OF THE AGREED MINUTE THE FIRST MEETING ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE U.S.-ICELANDIC DEFENSE UNDER-STANDING SIGNED OCTOBER 22, 1974 WAS HELD DECEMBER 17TH. A FEW DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING FONMIN AGUSTSSON NAMED ANDERSEN AS "HIS DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE." THE SECOND MEETING WAS HELD DECEMBER 23RD. ONLY ANDERSEN AND I WERE PRESENT AT THESE FIRST TWO SESSIONS, WHICH WERE HELD AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. THE THIRD MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 30TH TO TAKE PLACE AT IDF HEADQUARTERS WITH COMICEDEFOR REAR ADMIRAL RICH PRESENT AND WILL, IN EFFECT, BE THE FIRST TECHNICAL WORKING SESSION.

2. THE FIRST MEETING WAS BRIEF. ANDERSEN REMARKED THAT HE WAS UNDER PRESSURE FROM ICELANDIC CIVIL AIR DIRECTOR AGNAR KOFOED-HANSEN TO TAKE UP AS THE FIRST TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF CIVIL AVIATION. I COUNTERED THAT THIS SUBJECT SHOULD BE DISCUSSED IN DUE COURSE BUT NOT IMMEDIATELY. I SUGGESTED WE DISCUSS MILITARY PERSONNEL REDUCTIONS AS THE FIRST
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ITEM OF BUSINESS, IDENTIFYING JOBS CURRENTLY FILLED BY MILITARY

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MANPOWER WHICH WILL NOT REQUIRE ICELANDIC MANPOWER SUBSTITUTION, THEN MOVING INTO A TIMETABLE FOR MILITARY REDUCTIONS UP TO THE NUMBERS AGREED UPON, AND IDENTIFICATION OF NUMBER OF ICELANDIC REPLACEMENTS REQUIRED. WE AGREED ON THIS APPROACH, BUT ALSO AGREED THAT "AROUND MID-JANUARY" WE WILL INVITE KOFOED-HANSEN "TO MAKE A PRESENTATION FOR EVENTUAL DISCUSSION."

3. DURING SECOND MEETING ANDERSEN REQUESTED MY CONCURRENCE ON FORMULA FOR MEETINGS, NAMELY THAT "POLICY MEETINGS" BE RESTRICTED TO ATTENDANCE OF ONLY HIMSELF AND MYSELF, AND THAT "TECHNICAL MEETINGS" BE OPEN TO OTHERS, DEPENDING ON SUBJECT MATTER. HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE DETERMINATION AS TO THE ICELANDIC ORGANI-ZATION THAT WILL BE ASKED TO IMPLEMENT PHASES OF THE UNDERSTANDING BE CONSIDERED A "POLICY" MATTER.
(FYI, THIS SUGGESTION STEMS FROM MFA CONCERN OVER KEEPING CONTROL OF ENTIRE DEFENSE AGREEMENT. IT WILL ENABLE MFA TO RESTRICT INTRUSION OF OTHER MINISTRIES). I CONCURRED WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT COMICEDEFOR COULD BE PRESENT AT ALL "TECHNICAL" MEETINGS AND AT ALL MEETINGS WHERE REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER MINISTRIES WILL BE PRESENT. IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT WHETHER SUBJECTS WERE "POLICY" OR "TECHNICAL" WILL BE DETERMINED BY CIRCUMSTANCES AS THEY ARISE.

4. ANDERSEN REMARKED THAT FOR IMPACT REASONS IT WAS NECESSARY TO SHOW MOVEMENT ON IMPLEMENTATION BEFORE THE ALTHING RECONVENES JANUARY 27. HE SUGGESTED WE MAKE AN OFFER, NO MATTER HOW MODEST, OF REDUCTIONS OF MILITARY MANPOWER THAT CAN BE SET IN MOTION IMMEDIATELY. BASED ON INFORMATION PREVIOUSLY SUPPLIED TO ME BY COMICEDEFOR, I MENTIONED THAT WE WERE READY TO PROCEED WITH ELIMINATION OF 30 MILITARY PERSONNEL WHO DID NOT (RPT NOT) REQUIRE REPLACEMENT BY ICELANDERS. (I DID NOT IDENTIFY THESE FOR ANDERSEN, BUT FYI, THEY ARE 12 IN FLEET WEATHER FACILITY, 11 AT NAVCOMSTA, AND 7 MARINES.) ANDERSEN REMARKED IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO WORK OUT A PLAN OF ACTION FOR RECRUITMENT OF TECHNICALLY QUALIFIED ICELANDIC PERSONNEL AND SHOW ACTION ON THIS FRONT, TOO.

5. DURING MEETING ANDERSEN ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO CONTRACT OUT TO EXISTING ICELANDIC BUSINESS FIRMS SOME OPERATIONS WHICH ARE PRESENTLY HANDLED BY MILITARY PERSONNEL. HE REMARKED CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT THIS APPROACH HAS SEVERAL ADVANTAGES TO USG AND TO ICELAND. TO USG IT WILL AVOID LABOR PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH "DIRECT HIRE" ICELANDERS (AMONG THESE BEING THE KNOTTY "NO-STRIKE" POLITICAL PROBLEM). IT WILL ALSO PROVIDE THE NAVAL STATION WITH A BROADER BASE FOR GUARANTEED SERVICES. FOR ICELAND IT WILL PERMIT MAINTENANCE OF CURRENT/OR HIGHER EMPLOYMENT FOR EXISTING FIRMS. IT WILL ALSO PROVIDE MUTUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL BENEFIT TO USG AND GOI BY GIVING THE APPEARANCE OF LESS INTERFERENCE BY

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A "FOREIGN FORCE" IN THE LOCAL LABOR MARKET. EXISTING FIRMS WOULD BE COMPETING WITH OTHER EXISTING FIRMS FOR LOCAL LABOR. ANDERSEN SAID HE WOULD GIVE THIS HIGHER PRIORITY THAN THE "DIRECT HIRE" PROGRAM.

6. WE AGREED OUR NEXT MEETING WOULD BE ON DECEMBER 30 WITH COMICEDEFOR TO DISCUSS MATTERS RELATING TO THE REDUCTION OF MILITARY MANPOWER.
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